

# HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOUGLERSVILLE FIRE COMPANY

## HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Gougliersville Fire Company of Gougliersville, PA during its 75th anniversary celebration.

Without a fire company of its own, the people of Gougliersville, PA had to rely on companies located in neighboring communities. On March 8, 1928, citizens of Gougliersville attended a town meeting to discuss the formation of their own company. Over the next few months, the Gougliersville Fire Company was created. Members were recruited, officers were elected and the company constitution and by-laws were adopted. Finally, on September 4, 1928, the Berks County Court of Common Pleas granted a charter to the Company.

Over the next few years, the Company purchased a firehouse and its first apparatus. As time went on, the Company outgrew its original building and purchased a larger space to accommodate its increased membership and growing number of vehicles. The charter and by-laws of the Company were amended on August 3, 1950 to permit women to join. A Junior Brigade was started in 1972. As time has passed and the Company has changed, one thing that has not altered is the dedication of the firefighters to their duties.

For the past 75 years, the citizens of Gougliersville have been able to depend on the courageous men and women of Gougliersville Fire Company. I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting Gougliersville Fire Company on reaching this milestone.

## TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHNNY ALBINO

### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Mr. Johnny Albino, who will be honored this weekend as Yaucano del Año 2003. Mr. Albino is a renowned singer and songwriter who has recorded more than 300 records. He has traveled around the world sharing the gift of his music, in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Europe, as well as places as far away as Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Egypt and Israel, among others.

Mr. Albino was born in Yauco, Puerto Rico, on December 19, 1919. He was one of seven children. He went to school in Guayama, Puerto Rico, and planned to pursue law studies at the University of Puerto Rico, but in 1940 he enlisted in the United States Armed Forces. He served in the Corps of Engineers and studied to become a telegraph operator. During his tenure in the military, he also found a way to pursue his interest in music by forming a quartet and singing in U.S.O. sponsored events for servicemen. He served in the military for seven years, retiring as a Lieutenant.

When he returned to Yauco, he formed El Trio San Juan with Chago Alvarado and Ola

Martinez. They used to rehearse at a house on Tendal Street, on the way to Barrios Quebrada and Sierra Alta.

During his musical career as part of the famous Trio Los Panchos, with Alfredo Gil and Chucho Navarro, Albino traveled around the world seven times and had the opportunity to perform with luminaries such as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Nat King Cole and Eydie Gorme. He also shared the stage with world-renowned figures like Xavier Cugat and Johnny Carson. He has been one of Puerto Rico's most talented musical ambassadors. He has been married for 43 years to Mrs. Maria Albino, who is also his manager.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Johnny Albino, an accomplished musician, for his achievements and for giving to the Hispanic community and to the world the gift of beautiful music.

## CELEBRATING A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT AND THE LONGEVITY OF A LEWISTON LANDMARK

### HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the wonderful story of Toni Orestis and her lifetime of achievement. Marois Restaurant, a Lewiston landmark since 1919, is closing on May 31, 2003. Started by Antoinette Marois Orestis' grandfather, carried on by her father Leon, and now run by Toni for more than 35 years, Marois is a first class restaurant that has anchored the downtown area of Lewiston for almost 85 years.

Marois started as a lunch counter business and expanded over the decades into the full service restaurant that it is today. During the Second World War, the restaurant was open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, feeding the shipbuilders and other workers involved in supporting the war effort from home. When Lewiston and Maine had a need, Marois was always there to meet it.

Toni started working in the restaurant at the age of thirteen. She and her three sisters worked for their grandfather and father all through the years. In fact, no one knows the restaurant business better than Toni. Throughout the past 65 years she has performed every role, from starting as a helper, to becoming a server, then cook, and now owner and executive. Toni and Marois are an example of downtown Lewiston at its finest.

Along with her remarkable work ethic and business acumen, Toni has also been there for so many people in the community. From baptisms to bar mitzvahs, from weddings to anniversaries, from office and retirement parties to Christmas parties, and yes for funerals too, Toni is always there with wonderful food and hospitality. So many people remember fondly the food, the dessert cart, the French and Greek menus, the formal and correct table service, but most of all, the genuine and generous personality that is Toni Marois Orestis. No one ever went away hungry and everyone went away with a smile.

Now Toni, at 78 years young, is finally retiring. When asked if she wanted to keep working, she said "Yes, but part time, maybe 35 or

40 hours a week". That is the true mark of dedication; a life lived purposefully and well. Mr. Speaker, please join me and the residents of Lewiston in congratulating Toni Orestis on her retirement and thanking her for all she has done for her community.

## TRIBUTE TO RYAN BECKER

### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a firefighter who has gone out of his way to serve his country. Ryan Becker, a firefighter from Vail, Colorado, left the comforts of home recently to assist in the search for wreckage of the space shuttle *Columbia*.

Ryan's experience and training fighting wildland fires gave him exactly the kind of expertise NASA needed. So Ryan volunteered to help, and NASA supplied him and other members of his 18-person team with a map and put them to work in East Texas. The work wasn't always easy and at times was downright dangerous. Ryan walked through briar patches that tore his clothes and scratched his body, waded through muddy swamps and creeks, and dodged poisonous water moccasins and copperhead snakes; all in an effort to find a clue that might help investigators understand this tragic accident.

Yet despite the difficulties, Ryan and his teammates worked shifts up to 12-hours long, walked about eight miles a day, and covered many acres of territory. Their findings included debris that ranged in size from a four feet by six feet piece of the bulkhead to tiny chunks of about a quarter inch.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Ryan's contributions to our Space Shuttle program. This outstanding individual sacrificed in order to ensure that a calamity like the *Columbia* disaster will never happen again. I am honored to tell Ryan's story before this body of Congress today, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

## TRIBUTE TO MRS. REBECCA SUE SPEARS

### HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a remarkable woman on the occasion of a very special anniversary. In 1993, Mrs. Rebecca Sue Spears, of Fayetteville, Georgia, was diagnosed with breast cancer. This year marks the tenth anniversary of Mrs. Spears being "cancer free."

Today, a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer approximately every 2 minutes. Thanks to the efforts of people like Mrs. Spears, we are making great strides to eradicate this devastating disease. As a breast cancer survivor, Mrs. Spears continues to raise money and awareness to fight breast cancer and is a true servant leader.

In 2002, at the age of 59, Mrs. Spears participated in the Avon 3-Day Breast Cancer